REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3-18 are currently pending. Claims 1, 3, 5, 10, and 11 have been amended; and Claims 15-18 have been added by the present amendment. The changes and additions to the claims are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 3-5, and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,899,614 to Maeda et al. (hereinafter "the '614 patent");[1] Claims 6, 7, and 11-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the '614 patent in view of European Patent Application No. EP 0945780 to Ando et al. (hereinafter "the '780 application"); and Claims 8, 9, and 14 were allowed.

Amended Claim 1 is directed to a command data conversion device for use in a printing system, comprising: (1) a command interpreter that receives command data including commands to be used in print control and associated data, and interprets contents of the print command data; and (2) a processor that receives at least either of the commands and the associated data and executes prescribed processing. Further, Claim 1 recites that the command interpreter has command registers that can store multiple commands, wherein the command registers are rewritable memories and one of the multiple commands stored in the command registers can be replaced with a new command that is commonly used for a same type of printing system. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that one of the multiple commands stored in the command registers can be replaced with a new command that is

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[1] Applicants note that Claim 9 is listed as rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) on page 2 of the rejection, but is indicated as allowable on page 7 of the Office Action. Thus, given the indicated allowability of Claim 8, from which Claim 9 depends, and the fact that grounds for rejection of Claim 9 are not found on pages 2 or 3 of the Office Action, Applicants believe that the listing of Claim 9 on page 2 of the Office Action was in error and that Claim 9 is allowable.

commonly used for a same type of printing system. The changes to Claim 1 are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.[2]

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 1 (and dependent Claims 3-5) are rendered moot by the present amendment to Claim 1.

The '614 patent is directed to a print control apparatus that analyzes print data received from an external apparatus, generates output data based on the analyzed print data, and controls a print apparatus to print the output data. As shown in Figure 1, the '614 patent discloses a host computer 1 connected to output units 2 and 3. Moreover, the '614 patent discloses that, in order for the host computer to discriminate between the output units 2 and 3, the content of a command table, which is initially identical for each output unit (see Figure 3), is rewritten as shown in Fig. 5. Specifically, the first element shown in Figure 5 has been replaced to distinguish output 2 from output unit 3. Thus, the '614 patent discloses that the host computer 1 can discriminate between the two output units by sending the appropriate initial command sequence. However, Applicants respectfully submit that the '614 patent fails to disclose a command interpreter that stores multiple commands wherein <u>one of the multiple commands stored in the command registers can be replaced with a new command that is commonly used for a same type of printing system</u>, as recited in amended Claim 1. Rather, the '614 patent discloses replacing an entry in a command table with a command that is different and unique for each device, in order to discriminate between the various output units. The '614 patent fails to disclose that the new command can be commonly used for a same type of printing system, but discloses that the command that is replaced must be unique in order to allow the host system to identify and control the output devices. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 1 (and dependent Claims 3-5) patentably define over the '614 patent.

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[2] See, e.g., paragraphs 5, 8, 75, and 77 of the specification.

Independent Claim 10 recites limitations analogous to the limitations recited in Claim 1. Moreover, Claim 10 has been amended in a manner analogous to the amendment to Claim 1. Accordingly, for the reasons stated above for the patentability of Claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 10 is rendered moot by the present amendment to that claim.

Regarding the rejection of dependent Claims 6, 7, and 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103, Applicants respectfully submit that the '780 application fails to remedy the deficiencies of the '614 patent, as discussed above. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of Claims 6 and 7 are rendered moot by the present amendment to Claims 1 and 10.

The present amendment also sets forth new dependent Claims 15-18 for examination on the merits. New Claim 15, which depends from Claim 1, recites a limitation that was previously recited in Claim 1, i.e., that when a command included in the print command data matches any of the multiple commands stored in the command registers, the command interpreter sends to the processor at least one of either of the command or the associated data. Accordingly, new Claim 15 is supported by the originally filed specification and does not add new matter. Further, new Claim 16, which depends from Claim 1, recites that the command interpreter comprises an application-specific integrated circuit (ASIC). Claim 16 is supported by the originally filed specification and does not add new matter.[3] New Claims 17 and 18, which depend from Claim 10, recite limitations analogous to the limitations recited in new Claims 15 and 16. Accordingly, Claim 17 and 18 are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter. Moreover, based on the asserted allowability of Claims 1 and 10, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 15-18 patentably define over the cited references.
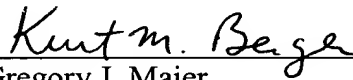
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[3] See, e.g., paragraphs 8 and 75 of the specification.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1, 8, 10, and 14 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably define over any proper combination of the '614 patent and the '780 application.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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